Central assistance to Orissa

1549. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in realising the Central assistance for the cyclone and flood victim of Orissa, West Bengal and flood affected areas of Bihar;

(b) whether Government are considering release of Central assistance in near future; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Pending receipt of a detailed memorandum, Rs. 500 crore was released as ad-hoc assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) and Rs. 450 crore as advance plan assistance to Orissa in the wake of the Cyclones of October, 1999, in addition to Rs. 42.50 crore as the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000 Rs. 33.78 crore an dRs. 33.39 crore have also been released to Bihar and West Bengal respectively as Central share of CRF for 1999-2000 for relief and rehabilitation measures. Memoranda for additional assistance of Rs. 721.27 crore, Rs. 6227.59 crore and Rs. 534.00 crore in the wake of cyclone/floods have been received from West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar respectively. While it has been decided to release an additional assistance of Rs. 29.52 crore from the NFCR to West Bengal, the memoranda from Orissa and Bihar, which have just been received are under consideration in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Area under Kharif and Rabi crops

1550. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under foodgrains production, separately for Kharif and Rabi foodgrains during 1990-98;

(b) whether the area under Kharif has declined while are under Rabi has remained stagnant for a long period;

(c) if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) steps taken to stop decline in the area under cultivation?